

Psalm 44 New American Standard Bible

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O God, we have heard with our ears, Our fathers have told us The work that You did in their days, In the days of old. ² You with Your own hand drove out the nations; Then You planted them; You afflicted the peoples, Then You spread them abroad.

³ For by their own sword they did not possess the land, And their own arm did not save them, But Your right hand and Your arm and the light of Your presence, For You favored them. ⁴ You are my King, O God; Command victories for Jacob.

⁵ Through You we will push back our adversaries; Through Your name we will trample down those who rise up against us. ⁶ For I will not trust in my bow, Nor will my sword save me. ⁷ But You have saved us from our adversaries, And You have put to shame those who hate us. ⁸ In God we have boasted all day long,
And we will give thanks to Your name forever

⁹ Yet You have rejected *us* and brought us to dishonor, And do not go out with our armies. ¹⁰ You cause us to turn back from the adversary; And those who hate us have taken spoil for themselves. ¹¹ You give us as sheep to be eaten And have scattered us among the nations.

¹² You sell Your people ^[e]cheaply, And have not profited by their sale. ¹³ You make us a reproach to our neighbors, A scoffing and a derision to those around us. ¹⁴ You make us a byword among the nations, A laughingstock among the peoples. ¹⁵ All day long my dishonor is before me And my humiliation has overwhelmed me,

¹⁶ Because of the voice of him who reproaches and reviles, Because of the presence of the enemy and the avenger. ¹⁷ All this has come upon us, but we have not forgotten You, And we have not dealt falsely with Your covenant. ¹⁸ Our heart has not turned back, And our steps have not deviated from Your way, ¹⁹ Yet You have crushed us in a place of jackals And covered us with the shadow of death.

²⁰ If we had forgotten the name of our God Or extended our hands to a strange god, ²¹ Would not God find this out? For He knows the secrets of the heart.

²² But for Your sake we are killed all day long;

We are considered as sheep to be slaughtered. ²³ Arouse Yourself, why do You sleep, O Lord?

Awake, do not reject us forever.

²⁴ Why do You hide Your face *And* forget our affliction and our oppression?

²⁵ For our soul has sunk down into the dust; Our body cleaves to the earth.

²⁶ Rise up, be our help, And redeem us for the sake of Your lovingkindness.

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God's character?

1. We are a reproach, considered as nothing.
2. Our neighbours and our friends are mocking us and then mocking You God.
3. We have become a joke to them.
4. To be humiliated and disregarded is a difficult thing to bare.
5. The presence of the enemy is upon us, but we have remembered You.
6. We have been true to the covenant of your Word.
7. We have walked in the way, but you have left us.
8. 'We have been faithful to You Oh God and yet this catastrophe has come upon us.'
9. We are in a place of great darkness and suffering, we are wondering where You are.
10. David says 'I could understand all of this if we had been unfaithful, but we have been true to You.'
11. Do you know these emotions of despair, when you cannot understand, when bad seems to have become your best friend?
12. Do you believe God knows the secrets of your heart?

13. In this darkness we are counted as worthless.
14. Awake Lord, arouse, come to our rescue, do not forget us. Can God forget us? Does God hide his face from us?
15. God has the reputation of one who delivered His people.
16. Do you think He's going to abandon that reputation?
17. He drives out the wicked – drives them away from His people providing they stay in the right place with Him.
18. When we give ourselves to the enemy's deeds we become vulnerable.
19. Sometimes God must afflict His people. Why do you think this is?
20. Why did God choose the Jewish nation to represent Him on the earth and no other nation?
21. What does it mean for God to command a victory for you?
22. Under the banner of God's name, we will see salvation from our problems.
23. David knows weapons may be used in a battle against his enemy, but it is God who is doing the saving.
24. Who is your adversary?
25. If you trust in God He will bring you deliverance.
26. Why do we bring offerings of thanksgiving to God?
27. When you trust in God your enemy will not like it.
28. David says 'God has rejected and dishonoured the nation of Israel'.
29. He says 'Our soldiers are uprooted, our enemy has success over us in the great fight.
30. He says 'Your people have been scattered and sold into slavery.'
31. Our enemy has bought us at a bargain price.